

## **Additional Questions for the Record**

**Directed To: Mr. Ray Lehr**

**Director, Statewide Communications Interoperability Program**

**State of Maryland**

**On May 2, 2013**

**The Honorable Greg Walden**

**1. If FirstNet requires states to surrender state assets in order to participate in FirstNet, would Maryland be willing to do so?**

Answer: Maryland is looking forward to working with FirstNet to make sure our state has a robust, resilient and fully covered portion of the network. To accomplish that, we have many assets such as towers, shelters, generators, fiber optic cables, microwave networks and network operation centers built to public safety standards that could potentially be used to expedite the build out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). Rather than "surrender", Maryland would prefer a negotiated use agreement that acknowledges the market value of such assets and uses that to offset any user fees the State of Maryland would be charged for access to the NPSBN. Maryland already uses this asset sharing model for communications assets owned by the State and local governments. Most of the assets mentioned above are owned by one agency and shared by other state, local and Federal public safety agencies under an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that dictates any fees, rental or "in-kind" sharing of assets.

**2 States that opt-out will be subjected to spectrum lease fees and network user fees set by FirstNet. Given that FirstNet has unilateral authority to determine those fees, is there any set of circumstances that would lead you to recommend to your governor that you opt-out?**

Answer: Maryland is working with our interested parties (public safety leaders, CIOs, government leaders, budget officials) to express our needs and concerns with the build-out of the NPSBN to the FirstNet Board. We remain confident that FirstNet will listen to the issues expressed by the States to make sure the decision to "opt-in" is an easy one based on costs that are equivalent to, or less than commercial services for a network that provides the level of coverage and reliability public safety requires. With the limited information available today, Maryland cannot commit to either option since so much is yet to be determined. However, we plan to take full advantage of every opportunity to express our views to our representatives on the FirstNet Board to insure that this historic opportunity meets the needs of public safety in the most cost effective manner possible.